

TRIBUTE TO MRS. MOZELL H.W.
ISAAC

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 8, 2000

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mrs. Mozell H.W. Isaac, who celebrated her 70th birthday on March 4, 2000.

A life-long resident of Lee County, South Carolina, Mrs. Isaac has served her community for over fifty years in numerous ways. Through the Clemson Extension Service, the public school system and other civic, religious, and fraternal organizations, Mozell H.W. Isaac has been an advocate for Lee County and its residents. Mrs. Mozell H.W. Isaac was not only an active citizen in the community, but also a mother of four, all of whom maintained close ties with the community and its affairs. One of her sons served two terms on the County Council, another works with youth correction programs in New York, one daughter works with the Guardian Ad Litem program for the county, and another is a paralegal in Columbia. She also is the proud grandmother of six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me today in paying tribute to an individual who has been a lifelong public servant, and shown tireless dedication to her community. I wish Mrs. Mozell H.W. Isaac a Happy 70th Birthday and many more returns.

IN HONOR OF MR. JAMES BERGIN

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 8, 2000

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to James Bergin. Mr. Bergin is an honorable citizen who has worked tirelessly to improve the quality of life for countless New Yorkers.

Mr. Bergin is an invaluable community leader of the Upper East Side. While Mr. Bergin seeks no praise for himself for what he does, he deserves our gratitude for his years of service to the community. James Bergin has distributed over one million pounds of government surplus food to the poor in his community and has found apartments for veterans and seniors in difficult times.

Mr. Bergin has participated in efforts to reduce crime in his neighborhood through Community Patrol programs, on foot and in his wheelchair. He has met with gangs and succeeded in significantly reducing gang activities in his neighborhood.

Among Mr. Bergin's many contributions to the health and well-being of New York City residents, Mr. Bergin has solicited funds from local store owners to give 15 scholarships to children to continue their education. He has solicited city funds to build two playgrounds for children, one for ages two to five and one for ages six to eleven.

Mr. Bergin's efforts to solicit money for charitable causes is never ending. He has an annual holiday party for children in low income neighborhoods and makes sure they all have a present to open and an opportunity to visit

Santa and enjoy ice cream soda and Christmas candy.

Mr. Bergin recently filmed a video on the proper way to handle a 911 call that involves armed intruders in residences. Mr. Bergin was asked to sign a release for possible distribution of his video. Mr. Bergin has attended every Manhattan North Community Picnic and interacted with the Manhattan North Community. Mr. Bergin's work in the community has helped in reducing drug traffic by 30% on the Upper East Side of Manhattan.

Mr. Speaker, I salute the life and work of Mr. James Bergin and I ask my fellow Members of Congress to join me in recognizing Mr. Bergin's contributions to the New York community.

TUNISIA INDEPENDENCE

HON. EARL F. HILLIARD

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 8, 2000

Mr. HILLIARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Government and the people of Tunisia on the occasion of their 44th Anniversary of Independence. While Tunisia gained its independence from France just 43 years ago, the country has a rich and treasured history, dating back to ancient Carthage.

Last year I had an opportunity to visit Tunisia, where I met with top government officials. My visit was personally enriching, and allowed me to engage in meaningful discussions on how to increase cooperation and exchange between the United States and Tunisia.

The relationship between the United States and Tunisia is much older than the 44th National Day celebration may suggest. In fact, America first signed a treaty of peace and friendship with Tunisia in 1797. While our country was struggling with the Civil War, Tunisia supported the anti-slavery movement here and consistently spoke out on the significance of human dignity. During World War II, Tunisia's nationalist leaders suspended their struggle against France in order to support the Allied cause. In 1956, the United States was the first world power to recognize Tunisia's independence.

Tunisia has been one of the primary countries of interest in Northern Africa for a trade partnership, as our country recognizes the significance of greater trade with Africa. In addition to promoting economic growth and stability in the region, Tunisia has also been a valuable participant in efforts to broker lasting peace in the Middle East, the Mediterranean, and throughout the continent of Africa.

Mr. Speaker, I hope all my colleagues will join with me in congratulating Tunisia on its 44th Independence Anniversary, and honor a great friend and partner.

ORANGE PARK HIGH SCHOOL CHOSEN AS GRAMMY SIGNATURE SCHOOL

HON. CLIFF STEARNS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 8, 2000

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Orange

Park High School for being named as a GRAMMY Signature School by the GRAMMY Foundation. Orange Park High School happens to be in my Congressional District and it has a fine reputation as a public school of education. However, I believe the Orange Park High School's receipt of this most recent honor should be given the recognition it deserves for this great achievement. It was won through a rigorous competition that was held throughout the nation.

This honor was achieved by the school for its outstanding music education program and makes Orange Park High School one of 100 schools to be chosen to receive a certificate of recognition based on its great level of commitment to music education.

The GRAMMY Foundation began the selection process last September when it mailed out over 18,000 applications to high school across the country requesting information about the schools' music programs. These applications were then submitted to an independent data compilation firm for processing. Some schools were asked to submit additional documentation such as recordings of school concerts, sample concert programs, music curriculum and repertoire that was reviewed by an independent screening committee.

The GRAMMY Signature School advisory committee is comprised of members of the American Federation of Musicians, ASCAP, the Berklee College of Music, BMI, Crossroads School, Music Educators National Conference, Thelonius Monk Institute, University of Massachusetts at Amherst, National Association of Music Merchandisers, National Music Council, Music Performance Trust Funds, University of Southern California-Thornton School of Music, and the Cherokee Nation.

The GRAMMY Foundation is a non-profit arm of the Recording Academy and it is dedicated to advancing music and arts-based education throughout the entire country thereby ensuring access to America's rich cultural legacy. The Foundation aims to strengthen our educational system through cultural, professional and educational initiatives.

I also want to pay special tribute to Bert Creswell, Director of Bands, W. Steve Ogilvie, Association Director of Bands, Jeff Mills, Associate Director of Bands, Janet Metcalf, William S. Ward, Judy Creswell, and the Orange Park High School Raider Band Parents Association for all their assistance because without their invaluable contributions this recognition would not be possible.

Michael Greene, President/CEO of the Recording Academy said at the time: "We are thrilled to give national recognition to these schools for an outstanding job of fostering their arts programs in a difficult cultural environment." He went on to say: "We applaud them for their success in ensuring that music education does not become a cultural casualty in their district, and for implementing music education programs that make a positive difference in the lives of young adults."

I am very proud that the dedication and effort shown by the faculty and students of Orange Park High School has been rewarded by being named as a GRAMMY Signature School.

IN HONOR OF DARIEN'S 2000
CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

HON. JUDY BIGGERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 8, 2000

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Ed Tomei, the 2000 Citizen of the Year for Darien, Illinois.

The city of Darien is at the heart of Illinois' 13th Congressional District. It is a central crossroads for a growing region. Incorporated in 1969, it is still a young community in comparison to many of its surrounding neighbors. Over the last 31 years a great deal of hard work and dedication has been invested to make this community what it is today. The people of Darien continue to work hard to live up to the city's understated motto—"a nice place to live."

Well, I am happy to confirm that it is a nice place to live, and much of the credit for that goes to Darien's Citizen of the Year, Ed Tomei.

Ed and his family moved to Darien in 1970 shortly after the city's incorporation. Ed soon threw himself into the work of improving and representing the community he called home. He served eight years as an alderman and four years as the Fire and Police Commissioner. He became a member of the Hinsdale South High School Booster Club as well as the Hinsdale Jaycees. Ed also took part in the West Suburban Ducks Unlimited Group, a wildlife preservation organization.

Ed invested countless hours to help make the creation of the Indian Prairie Library a reality, and he has shown time and again his commitment to his community. Despite his heavy schedule, Ed continues to find the time to play Santa Claus at Christmas.

Ed Tomei put his heart and soul into Darien—and his neighbors noticed. As impressive as his civic accomplishments are, it is the words that his neighbors wrote about that show the true mark of this man.

One wrote, "he has always exhibited generosity, enthusiasm, diligence and integrity of the highest order. . . . After thirty years of progress it's easy to forget how much of the smooth running of the City in the early days was due to efforts 'above and beyond' the call of duty such as Ed provided."

Another said, "[i]ntegrity, commitment and leadership are the three traits that comprise the heart of Ed Tomei's character and what make him an outstanding citizen."

That is high praise indeed, but praise that is well deserved. It is outstanding citizens like Ed that have built the great nation that we live in today. Congratulations to Ed Tomei, Darien's 2000 Citizen of the Year. He has made Darien much more than "a nice place to live."

THE FUEL TAX COST REDUCTION ACT

HON. MAC COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 8, 2000

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, with a fill-up at the gas pump draining more and more of a worker's wallet, it is time for Congress to pro-

vide relief to consumers. Congress has the power to help offset the rapidly increasing costs that are being imposed on working Americans, and we must act now.

Today I rise to introduce the Fuel Tax Cost Reduction Act—a bill to repeal a 4.3 cents per gallon tax on gasoline. This bill expands on legislation I have introduced in the past by repealing the 1993 deficit reduction fuel tax as it applies to all modes of transportation.

Mr. Speaker, this tax was included in the massive 1993 tax-hike. The purpose of this tax increase was to "reduce the deficit" during the time period when the old Congressional majority was regularly passing deficit-driven budgets that far outspent each year's tax receipts. Since that time, the Republican majority has taken action to balance the budget so that today the Federal government is running a positive cash flow. The end of annual deficits should mean the end of "deficit-reduction" taxes.

Today, world oil prices are climbing, and experts now predict that the price of gasoline will rise to at least \$2 a gallon. American families need help and this is the kind of tax relief that will help working families the most.

SALUTE TO FEDERAL WORKERS' 1999 COMBINED FEDERAL CAM- PAIGN

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 8, 2000

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the generosity of our local federal workers, who participated in the 1999 Combined Federal Campaign (CFC). Federal employees in the national capital area contributed a record setting \$44.3 million in 1999, far exceeding campaign goals by 8.5 percent. Thanks to their generosity, these funds will be used to help needy people in the District of Columbia, across the nation and around the globe. As we know, the CFC provides more than money, it builds stronger, healthier lives and communities.

My sincere congratulations to Health and Human Services Secretary Donna E. Shalala, who chaired the 1999 CFC and promoted it through more than 40 visits to federal agencies. A special salute as well to the thousands of committed CFC volunteers and federal workers who made this year's campaign a resounding success.

HONORING SISTER CATHERINE SCHNEIDER ON HER GOLDEN JU- BILEE AS A SERVANT SISTER OF THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY

HON. ROBERT A. BORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 8, 2000

Mr. BORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sister Catherine Schneider who is celebrating her Golden Jubilee as a Servant Sister of the Immaculate Heart of Mary on March 17, 2000.

Sister Schneider dedicated her entire body of knowledge to the educational development

and advancement of children of all ages. She introduced the fundamentals of primary education to younger children by teaching first and second grade at St. Gabriel and St. Raphael parishes. She continued this advancement of education with her insightful and thought-provoking classroom instructions in Religion and Social Studies at St. Cecilia, Assumption, Our Lady of Fatima, and St. Laurence parishes.

Beyond the scope of her classroom responsibilities, she continued to enhance the educational prowess of her students. She selflessly did this by sacrificing her lunch periods to tutor her students who may be floundering in certain areas of their education. She implemented several student-centered programs such as the May Procession and the altar servers to ensure the stewardship and spirituality of a Catholic education.

Constantly striving to serve her devotion in all of its capacities, Sister Schneider held two secretarial positions at St. Augustine and the Holy Name of Jesus parishes. She willingly accepted the tasks that were presented to her and genuinely welcomed visitors to both schools. She freely served the infirm patients at Camilla Hall by simply listening to their needs and by offering them a kind word of inspiration. Even as a patient herself, she toiled with the switchboard as an operator. Sister Schneider continually served and educated others which had reciprocal benefits and values on her own life.

Mr. Speaker, Sister Catherine Schneider should be commended for her tireless pursuit to support and value the advancement of education and her deep devotion to duty. I congratulate and highly revere Sister Schneider upon this most glorious occasion of her Golden Jubilee, and I offer her my best wishes for continued faith and dedication in the coming years.

WE NEED NOT SIT IDLY BY

HON. SHERWOOD L. BOEHLERT

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 8, 2000

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, the citizens in my district and across the Northeast have struggled this winter to pay for their heating bills because of the extraordinary recent spikes in the price of home heating oil. The price of diesel fuel rose sharply, too, delivering a severe economic blow to farmers, truckers, and businesses that depend on shipping products by truck. And since just about everything we wear, eat and use in our daily lives is shipped over land by truck, the high cost of fuel took a bite out of just about every consumer's budget. It's been a rough winter for the Northeast.

Unfortunately, it looks like we're not in the clear, yet. Recent headlines report that many experts now predict steep prices of gasoline during the peak driving season this summer, making this winter's crisis seem "like a cake-walk" by comparison.

Why are we all of a sudden experiencing such exorbitant energy prices? Are they simply the outcome of free market forces, the perpetual balancing of supply and demand? No. We are being held hostage by oil producing countries—many of whom have accepted generous assistance from the United States in the